

It's hard to believe, but spring is almost here and for most people that means spring-cleaning. This year the Belmont Department of Public Works (DPW) is offering residents the opportunity to recycle and keep unwanted items from disposal as trash. Please remember to Reduce, Reuse and Recycle!

On Saturday, May 3rd from 10:00am-2:00pm at the DPW Water Division Yard, 35 Woodland St. residents will have the chance to recycle textiles, bulky rigid plastics, Styrofoam and to shred paper. Please note that the LISTED RECYCLABLES ARE THE ONLY ITEMS WE CAN ACCEPT.

Residents should follow the recycling instructions for each type of item.

1. Textiles

Must be dry and clean. Includes clothing, linens, footwear, purses, belts, and stuffed animals. Items can be ripped and/or stained. It is estimated that the average U.S. citizen throws away 70 pounds of clothing each year! Out of the 95% of textiles that can be donated or recycled only 15% achieve this result, the other 85% (70 lbs./citizen/year) end up in the trash. When textiles are donated—45% are reused and repurposed mostly as exports, 30% are converted into rags, 20% are used as fiber in home insulation and carpet padding. Only 5% ends up as waste.

<http://www.smartasn.org/educators-kids/SMARTInfographTextileRecycling.pdf>

<http://www.mass.gov/eea/docs/dep/recycle/reduce/textile-flyer.pdf>

2. Bulky Rigid Plastics

Bulky rigid plastics are best defined as formed or molded plastic that maintains its shape when empty and unsupported and are too large to fit in your recycling bin. Examples are trash barrels, laundry baskets, toys, crates, pet carriers and lawn furniture. The recycling of rigid plastics has been increasing in the U.S. and these objects can be recycled into pipe, buckets, automotive products, drums, crates, lidded reusable food storage containers and kitchen tools, such as cutting boards, measuring cups and serving utensils.

3. Expanded Polystyrene Foam (EPS)

This item is commonly known by its brand name, Styrofoam and can be recycled, but not in the Town curbside collection program. Any foam that has the recycling symbol 6 in the triangle with PS underneath it will be accepted if it is clean, and has no tape, label or cardboard attached. Packing peanuts are not accepted; please bring to a UPS store. Over 93 million pounds of EPS were recycled in 2012, including 36.7 million pounds of post-consumer packaging and 56.9 million pounds of post-industrial packaging. EPS can be recycled into new foam packaging or cameras, coat hangers, CD and jewel cases.

<http://refoamit.com/WhatCanBeRecycled/tabid/91/Default.aspx>

4. Paper Shredding

Now is the time to clean out your home office and safely get rid of all your sensitive documents that have been accumulating and taking up space. Boxes of your unwanted documents are shredded on-site in seconds. Voluntary cash donations are accepted to benefit the Belmont Food Pantry for this service.

Start looking around your house and purge all those unwanted items. Clothing that doesn't fit anymore, toys and lawn furniture, and personal documents. You can even start saving Styrofoam instead of throwing it away. Remember, it is always best to reuse so if you know anyone that could use your hand-me-down textiles or plastic items please donate before coming down to the event to recycle.

The Belmont DPW is having an open house to celebrate National Public Works Week on this day as well. For the Recycling Event only please enter the DPW Water Division via Woodland St. and exit via Prince St. and when you are done please don't forget to stop in at the DPW Open House via C St.

Also, if you need to recycle anything with a plug, head down to the Butler Elementary School at 90 White St. from 8:00am – 12 noon. They are having an electronic recycling fundraiser event and are collecting old computers, TV's and other electronics for a fee.

Keeping the above items from the trash helps reduce pollution, preserves natural resources and saves the Town money. Thank you for reducing, reusing and recycling. Any questions or suggestions, please contact Mary Beth Calnan, Belmont Recycling Coordinator, at mcalnan@belmont-ma.gov or 617-993-2689.